



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/556,007	11/08/2005	Matthew P.J. Baker	GB 030181	4551
24737 7590 12/16/2009 PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS P.O. BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510				
EXAMINER BATISTA, MARCOS				
ART UNIT 2617		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 12/16/2009		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/556,007

Applicant(s)

BAKER ET AL.

Examiner

MARCOS BATISTA

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/CD)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed on 10/556007. Claims 1-42 are still pending in the present application. This Action is made **FINAL**.

Response to Argument

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 18 and 39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed on 10/556007 with respect to claim 34 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

After carefully revising the office action pertinent to the present response and remarks, the following main point(s) have been identified:

1) The Applicant states that *"Das does not teach a power control loop, and cannot be said to teach controlling a time of transmission of reports in response to an interruption of such a power control loop. The term 'power' does not appear anywhere within Das"* (refer to page 9 lines 17-20 of the Applicant's remarks).

Regarding point 1), unlike claims 1, 18, and 39, claim 34 was not amended to have deleted the following feature *"or the reports received from the mobile station,"* therefore, the previous rejection and explanation filed on 07/01/2009 is still maintained. Cheng clearly teaches "scheduling an interruption in the power control loop process or

the reports received from the mobile station." Cheng, at paragraph 34 lines 18-25 "*Data packet transmission on the forward link from serving cell a to the MS and CQI on the reverse link between the MS and the serving cell a occurs until the CSD time out at which time all transmissions between serving cell a and the MS stop. Transmission of the data from target cell b to the MS should begin at the end of the CSD which is normally the time for target cell b to be set up as the new serving cell and to acquire the necessary radio resources.*" As described above, the mobile station will continue to transmit CQI to the serving cell until the end of the CSD (Cell Switching Delay) time out (at the end of the time out period, the scheduled delay for transmitting CQI from the mobile to the serving cell is suspended temporarily). The transmission of the CQI is resumed right after the end of the time out period, but now the mobile transmits CQI with the target cell.

Therefore, the argued features are written such that they read upon the cited reference(s).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-10, 16-27, 33 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apostolides et al. (US 6829226 B1), hereafter "Apostolides," in view

of Das et al. (US 20030087605 A1), hereafter "Das," further in view of Kono (US 20010004374 A1), hereafter "Kono."

Consider claim 1, Apostolides discloses a mobile station (16) for use in a communication system having a base station (18), the mobile station comprising power control signal generation means for generating a power control signal for enabling the base station to adjust its transmit power level in accordance with a power control loop process (see figs.1 and 4, col. 6 lines 53-61), report generation means for generating reports from measurements of a characteristic of a signal received from the base station (see figs.1 and 4, col. 6 lines 48-50), transmitter means for transmitting the reports and the power control signal to the base station (see fig. 4, col. 6 lines 48-61).

Apostolides, however, does not particular refer to a transmission control means adapted to control a time of transmission of the reports such that first of the reports are transmitted at a predetermined sequence of times and to control a time of transmission of one or more second of the reports at times that are not coincident with the predetermined times.

Das, teaches a transmission control means adapted to control a time of transmission of the reports such that first of the reports are transmitted at a predetermined sequence of times (see fig. 2, par. 0016 lines 3-7) and to control a time of transmission of one or more second of the reports at times that are not coincident with the predetermined times (see par. 0017 lines 7-24).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Apostolides and have it include a

transmission control means adapted to control a time of transmission of the reports such that first of the reports are transmitted at a predetermined sequence of times and to control a time of transmission of one or more second of the reports at times that are not coincident with the predetermined times, as taught by Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (**see par. 0017 lines 7-24**).

Apostolides as modified by Das, however, does not particular refer to in response to an interruption in the power control loop process and for a period existing at least one of before, during and after the interruption, to control a time of transmission of one or more second of the reports at times that are not coincident with the predetermined times.

Kono, teaches in response to an interruption in the power control loop process and for a period existing at least one of before, during and after the interruption, to control a time of transmission of one or more second of the reports at times that are not coincident with the predetermined times (**see pars. 0052 lines 1-9, 0054 lines 1-13, 0055 lines 1-9** – where Kono teaches a base station receiving report information from a mobile terminal regarding reception condition in the normal operation. And when an abnormal operation occurs; radio channel in an up-link direction and a radio channel in a down-link direction are interrupted (i.e., power control process is interrupted), the base station and the mobile station increase their power in order to recover from the abnormal condition. After recovering from the abnormal condition, the base station requests reception condition report from the mobile station a second time).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Apostolides as modified by Das and have it include in response to an interruption in the power control loop process and for a period existing at least one of before, during and after the interruption, to control a time of transmission of one or more second of the reports at times that are not coincident with the predetermined times, as taught by Kono. The motivation would have been in order to indicate the connection condition between the base station and the mobile station (see pars. 0052 lines 1-9, 0054 lines 1-13, 0055 lines 1-9).

Consider claim 2, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, Apostolides further teaches wherein the power control signal comprises power control commands (see col. 6 lines 50-52).

Consider claim 3, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, Das further teaches wherein the report generation means is adapted to generate at least one of the second reports from a measurement of shorter duration than a measurement duration used to generate the first reports (see par. 0016 lines 14-18).

It would have been obvious to have modified Apostolides' invention with the teaching of Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (see par. 0017 lines 7-24).

Consider claim 4, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, Das further teaches wherein the report generation means is adapted to generate an earliest report transmitted after an end of the interruption from a measurement commenced before the end of the interruption (see par. 0018 lines 1-4).

It would have been obvious to have modified Apostolides' invention with the teaching of Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (see par. 0017 lines 7-24).

Consider claim 5, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, Das further teaches wherein the transmission control means is adapted to select, in response to an indication of a length of the interruption, a start time of the period for which the second reports are transmitted (see par. 0019 lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to have modified Apostolides' invention with the teaching of Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (see par. 0017 lines 7-24).

Consider claim 6, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, Das further teaches wherein the transmission control means is adapted to select, in response to an indication of a length of the interruption, a duration of the period for which the second reports are transmitted (see par. 0019 lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to have modified Apostolides' invention with the teaching of Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (see par. 0017 lines 7-24).

Consider claim 7, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, Das further teaches wherein the transmission control means is adapted to select, in response to an indication of a length of the interruption, a number of the second reports to be transmitted in the period (see par. 0019 lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to have modified Apostolides' invention with the teaching of Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (see par. 0017 lines 7-24).

Consider claim 8, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, Das further teaches wherein a duration of the period for which the second reports are transmitted is predetermined (see par. 0020 lines 4-7).

It would have been obvious to have modified Apostolides' invention with the teaching of Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (see par. 0017 lines 7-24).

Consider claim 9, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, Das further teaches wherein a number of the second reports transmitted in the period is predetermined (see par. 0020 lines 4-7).

It would have been obvious to have modified Apostolides' invention with the teaching of Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (see par. 0017 lines 7-24).

Consider claim 10, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, Das further teaches wherein the period terminates when a next predetermined time occurs (see par. 0020 lines 16-19).

It would have been obvious to have modified Apostolides' invention with the teaching of Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (see par. 0017 lines 7-24).

Consider claim 16, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, Das further teaches wherein the transmission control means is adapted to, after one or more second reports have been transmitted, apply a time shift to the predetermined sequence of times for the transmission of subsequent first reports (see par. 0020 lines 4-7, 16-19).

It would have been obvious to have modified Apostolides' invention with the teaching of Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (see par. 0017 lines 7-24).

Consider claim 17, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, Apostolides further teaches radio communication system comprising a base station **(18)** and at least one mobile station **(16)** as claimed in claim 1 (see fig. 1, col. 6 lines 48-50).

Consider claims 18-27 and 33, these claims discuss the same subject matter as claims 1-10 and 16 respectively. Therefore, they have been analyzed and rejected based upon the rejection to claim 1-10 and 16.

Consider claim 39, Apostolides discloses a mobile station **(16)** for use in a communication system having a base station **(18)**, the mobile station comprising: a receiver (see fig. 4, #102); a controller (see fig. 4, #112) that is configured to: generate power control signals that enable the base station to adjust its transmit power level in accordance with a power control loop process (see figs.1 and 4, col. 6 lines 53-61), generate reports from measurements of a characteristic of a signal received from the base station (see figs.1 and 4, col. 6 lines 48-50), and control a time of transmission of the reports (see col. 6 line 62 - col. 7 line 1); and a transmitter that is configured to transmit the power control signals and the reports (see fig. 4 #104, col. 6 lines 49-52);

Apostolides, however, does not particular refer to wherein the controller controls the time of transmission of the reports such that the reports are transmitted at a first rate and the reports are transmitted at a second rate that is higher than the first rate.

Das, teaches wherein the controller controls the time of transmission of the reports such that the reports are transmitted at a first rate (**see fig. 2, par. 0016 lines 3-7**) and the reports are transmitted at a second rate that is higher than the first rate (**see par. 0017 lines 7-24**).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Apostolides and have it include a wherein the controller controls the time of transmission of the reports such that the reports are transmitted at a first rate and the reports are transmitted at a second rate that is higher than the first rate, as taught by Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (**see par. 0017 lines 7-24**).

Apostolides as modified by Das, however, does not particular refer to in response to an interruption in the power control loop process, the reports are transmitted at a second rate.

Kono, teaches in response to an interruption in the power control loop process, the reports are transmitted at a second rate (**see pars. 0052 lines 1-9, 0054 lines 1-13, 0055 lines 1-9** – where Kono teaches a base station receiving report information from a mobile terminal regarding reception condition in the normal operation. And when an abnormal operation occurs; radio channel in an up-link direction and a radio channel in

a down-link direction are interrupted (i.e., power control process is interrupted), the base station and the mobile station increase their power in order to recover from the abnormal condition. After recovering from the abnormal condition, the base station requests reception condition report from the mobile station a second time).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Apostolides as modified by Das and have it include in response to an interruption in the power control loop process, the reports are transmitted at a second rate, as taught by Kono. The motivation would have been in order to indicate the connection condition between the base station and the mobile station (see pars. 0052 lines 1-9, 0054 lines 1-13, 0055 lines 1-9).

Consider claim 40, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 39, Das further teaches wherein the controller is configured to generate at least one of the second reports from a measurement of shorter duration than a measurement duration used to generate the first reports (see par. 0016 lines 14-18).

It would have been obvious to have modified Apostolides' invention with the teaching of Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (see par. 0017 lines 7-24).

Consider claim 41, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 39, Das further teaches wherein the controller is configured to select, in response to an

indication of a length of the interruption, at least one of: a start time of the period for which the second reports are transmitted (see par. 0019 lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to have modified Apostolides' invention with the teaching of Das. The motivation would have been in order to be able to maintain data exchange synchronization between the mobile and the base station after a delay (see par. 0017 lines 7-24).

6. Claims 11-14, 28-31 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apostolides et al. (US 6829226 B1), hereafter "Apostolides," in view of Das et al. (US 20030087605 A1), hereafter "Das," further in view of Kono (US 20010004374 A1), hereafter "Kono," and further in view of Baker et al. (US 20020016179 A1), hereafter "Baker."

Consider claims 11-14, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, but neither Apostolides nor Das or Kono particular refer to wherein the transmission control means is adapted to terminate the period in response to an indication of convergence of the power control loop process; wherein the indication of convergence is a signal received from the base station; wherein the transmitter control means is adapted to generate the indication of convergence in accordance with a predetermined criterion; wherein the predetermined criterion includes a reversal of the sign of at least one power control command.

Baker teaches wherein the transmission control means is adapted to terminate the period in response to an indication of convergence of the power control loop (see

pars. 0028 lines 1-4, 0035 lines 1-9); wherein the indication of convergence is a signal received from the base station (see par. 0033 lines 10-13); wherein the transmitter control means is adapted to generate the indication of convergence in accordance with a predetermined criterion (see pars. 0024 lines 9-13, 0032 lines 1-8); wherein the predetermined criterion is a reversal of the sign of at least one power control command (see par. 0032 lines 1-8).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono and have it include wherein the transmission control means is adapted to terminate the period in response to an indication of convergence of the power control loop; wherein the indication of convergence is a signal received from the base station; wherein the transmitter control means is adapted to generate the indication of convergence in accordance with a predetermined criterion; wherein the predetermined criterion is a reversal of the sign of at least one power control command, as taught by Baker. The motivation would have been in order to synchronize a power transmission level between the base station and the mobile station (see pars. 0028 lines 1-4, 0035 lines 1-9).

Consider claims 28-31, these claims discuss the same subject matter as claims 11-14 respectively. Therefore, they have been analyzed and rejected based upon the rejection to claim 11-14.

Consider claim 42, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 39, but neither Apostolides nor Das or Kono particular refer to wherein the controller is configured to resume sending the reports at the first rate in response to an indication of convergence of the power control loop process (see par. 0033 lines 1-13). The motivation would have been in order to synchronize a power transmission level between the base station and the mobile station (see pars. 0028 lines 1-4, 0035 lines 1-9).

7. Claims 15 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apostolides et al. (US 6829226 B1), hereafter "Apostolides," in view of Das et al. (US 20030087605 A1), hereafter "Das," further in view of Kono (US 20010004374 A1), hereafter "Kono," and further in view of Cudak et al. (US 20050289256 A1), hereafter "Cudak."

Consider claim 15, Apostolides as modified by Das and Kono teaches claim 1, but neither Apostolides nor Das particular refer to wherein the report generation means is adapted to suspend generation of the first reports during the interruption.

Cudak teaches wherein the report generation means is adapted to suspend generation of the first reports during the interruption (see par. 0053 lines 1-5).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Apostolides as modified by Das and have it include wherein the report generation means is adapted to suspend generation of the first reports during the interruption, as taught by Cudak. The motivation would have

been in order to allow the base station to better manage its resources by controlling the transmission of quality report from the mobile station (see par. 0055 lines 1-8).

Consider claim 32, this claim discusses the same subject matter as claim 15. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected based upon the rejection to claim 15.

8. Claims 34-36 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apostolides et al. (US 6829226 B1), hereafter "Apostolides," in view of Das et al. (US 20030087605 A1), hereafter "Das," further in view of Cheng et al. (US 20040246917 A1), hereafter "Cheng."

Consider claim 34, this claim discusses similar subject matter as claim 1. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected based upon the rejection to claim 1. In addition, claim 34 also states scheduling means for scheduling an interruption in the power control loop process or the reports received from the mobile station. However, Apostolides as modified by Das does not particular refer to the above mentioned feature.

Cheng, in analogous art, teaches a base transceiver stations configured to activate a delay process (i.e., scheduling an interruption) in the reports received from the mobile station (see pars. 0026 lines 6-8, 0033 lines 7-12 and 19-23, 0034 lines 18-22).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Apostolides as modified by Das and have

it include a base transceiver stations configured to activate a delay process (i.e., scheduling an interruption) in the reports received from the mobile station, as taught by Cheng. The motivation would have been in order to prepare the system for a hand off (see par. 0033 lines 1-26).

Consider claims 35-36, these claims discuss the same subject matter as claims 2 and 5 respectively. Therefore, they have been analyzed and rejected based upon the rejection to claim 2 and 5.

Consider claim 38, this claim discusses the same subject matter as claim 5. Therefore, it has been analyzed and rejected based upon the rejection to claim 5.

9. Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Apostolides et al. (US 6829226 B1), hereafter "Apostolides," in view of Das et al. (US 20030087605 A1), hereafter "Das," in view of Cheng et al. (US 20040246917 A1), hereafter "Cheng," further in view of Baker et al. (US 20020016179 A1), hereafter "Baker."

Consider claim 37, Apostolides as modified by Das and Cheng discusses the invention of claim 34. However, Apostolides alone or combined does not particular refer to wherein the scheduling means is adapted to determine an end time of the period in response to an indication of convergence of the power control loop process.

Baker teaches wherein the scheduling means is adapted to determine an end time of the period in response to an indication of convergence of the power control loop process (see par. 0027 lines 1-23).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Apostolides as modified by Das and Cheng and have it include wherein the transmission control means is adapted to terminate the period in response to an indication of convergence of the power control loop, as taught by Baker. The motivation would have been in order to synchronize a power transmission level between the base station and the mobile station (see pars. 0028 lines 1-4, 0035 lines 1-9).

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Marcos Batista, whose telephone number is (571) 270-5209. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Rafael Pérez-Gutiérrez can be reached at (571) 272-7915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

/Marcos Batista/
Examiner
12/08/2009

Application/Control Number: 10/556,007
Art Unit: 2617

Page 20

/George Eng/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617